

# Bulldogs Have Tremendous Season

By DAVID SMITH

The Bulldogs have had a very successful basketball season thus far, with two titles to show for it, and looking for a few more.

The Bulldogs have won the Stanly County Classic earlier, and just recently have taken the Southern Piedmont Conference crown with numerous impressive victories.

On Friday night, January 16, the Bulldogs fell to defeat at the hands of the Northwest Trojans. Northwest outscored the Dogs 12-8 in the final and decisive period. Albemarle led at halftime and going into the final period. Craig Cordes led the Bulldog attack with 16 markers followed by Eric Mack with 8.

Tuesday, January 20, the Bulldogs topped the Spiders of Concord by the score of 64-30. The one-sided game got off to a slow start, but the Bulldogs outscored the Spiders 35 to 17 in the final two quarters. The Dog's field goal percentage was 46% while they were 76% good at the line. Craig Cordes led the game with 25 points and Eric Mack followed with 12.

The Bulldogs then traveled to Sun Valley High School for another conference game. The Blue started out slow and couldn't ever get

back in, losing by the narrow margin of one basket. The final score was 46 to 44. Albemarle only shot 37% from the floor. Craig Cordes led the Dogs with 21 points followed by Eric Richardson with 11.

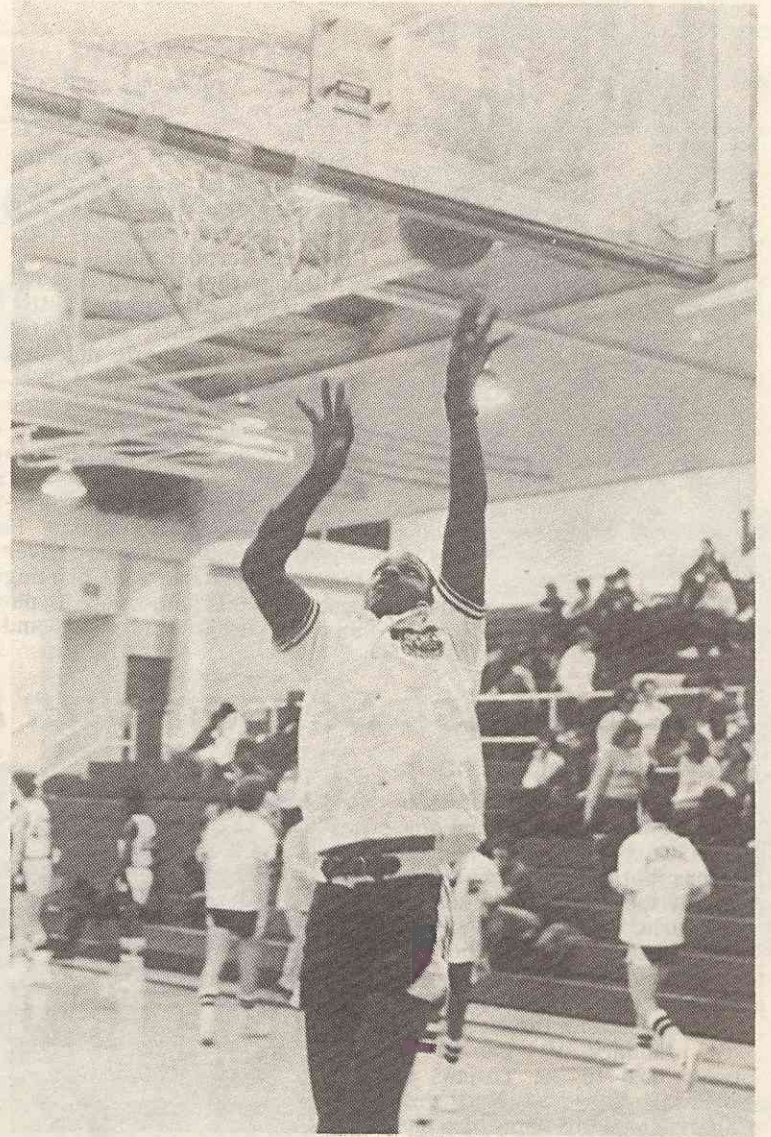
Following this disappointment the Blue were lifted by an impressive victory the Dogs were back in first place to stay, with a defeat over second-place Forest Hills. The game stayed close until the beginning of the third quarter, when Albemarle came out gunning. The final tally was 57 to 52. Craig Cordes led the game with 20 points while Eric Richardson had 14.

On a Saturday night conference game, the Bulldogs showed little hospitality on the court, blowing out East Rowan 64 to 52. The Blue had a one point lead the first quarter and then began to expand that lead. The Bulldogs hit on 74% of their free throws. Craig Cordes got an impressive 33 points, Eric Richardson followed with 10.

The Bulldogs then took their victory machine to arch-rival North Stanly. The Dogs took the night with a 65 to 53 victory. Hot shooting and good ball handling held the Comets back when they tried to narrow the score. Craig Cordes led with 25 points and was followed by Eric Richardson with an impressive 18 markers.

The final regular season conference game was played at South Rowan. The Bulldogs came out with yet another victory along with the regular season crown for first place with a 14-2 conference record. The Bulldogs then traveled to West Stanly for the final game of regular season, coming back with a blowout and ending their regular season with a 20-2 overall record.

The Bulldogs then traveled to Central Cabarrus hoping to bring back the tournament victory. In their first encounter, the Dogs won over a tough fired up North Stanly team. This victory was the 300th of Coach Holcomb's career. Impressive! Then the Dogs played a very hard fought game against East Rowan. Bulldog fans were given a scare as the Mustangs took a large lead and our players were in foul trouble. But as usual, the Blue came back to win. In the final game, for the championship, they played Northwest Cabarrus, a team that enjoys playing above the rim. The game was close throughout, and went down to the wire. Several clutch free throws by Sandy Jones enabled the Bulldogs to stay ahead in the final closing seconds and bring home the S.P.C. tournament trophy. Congratulations to the whole Bulldog squad.



Chico Lilly shoots during warmup.

## Speight Goes To State Tournament Wrestlers Wrap Up Season

By CHRIS HARTSOCK

Albemarle wrestlers have finished their season with a 5-7 record. In a meet against Northwest Cabarrus, January 22, Wayne Allen (114), Dale Speight (147), David Livingston (157), and Jimmy Hatley (Hvy. Wt.), all came out on top. January 27, the Bulldogs travelled to Central Cabarrus and came up with only 16 points. The winners of that meet were David Livingston, Ricky Honeycutt (187), and David Moose (197). Thursday, January 29, South Rowan defeated Albemarle by a score of 59-8. Wayne Allen and David Livingston won their matches, and Dale Speight had a tie.

The Bulldogs also competed in the SPC Wrestling Tournament Saturday, February 7. Although they did not do too well, David Livingston placed 2nd, and Dale Speight and Ricky Honeycutt placed 3rd, in their weight divisions. Friday, February 13, David Livingston, Dale Speight, Ricky Honeycutt, and Greg Little participated in the Sectional V Wrestling Tournament. Dale Speight placed 2nd, in his weight class and traveled to the Regionals on Friday and Saturday, February 20-21, in Kannapolis. Dale performed well capturing third place in his weight division and a berth in the State Tournament February 27.

Overall, Coach Bean stated that the season has gone fairly well considering the obstacles they have had to face. Seven of his wrestlers will be back again next year along with a few new ones, and he is really looking forward to working with them.



David Livingston struggles to maintain control.



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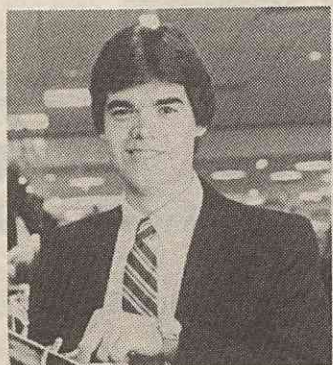
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